



# NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICE ■ 1474 RODEO RD ■ SANTA FE, NM 87505  
Hans Stuart ■ External Affairs Chief ■ 505.438.7510

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**For Additional Information**  
Na'ama Tubman 505.525.4333  
Tom Phillips 505.525.4377

## **BLM Releases McGregor Range Proposed Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement**

Las Cruces – The Bureau of Land Management has released the proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for McGregor Range.

BLM will issue a federal register notice on January 13<sup>th</sup>, which will initiate a 30-day protest period. Members of the public that have been part of this process may submit any protests to the BLM Director Kathleen Clarke.

The submittal process is a formal process that will be identified in both the federal register notice and the RMPA. Please contact Tom Phillips at 505.525.4377 for more information on how to submit a protest, or with further questions on the planning effort.

In addition Governor Richardson has had a 60-day Consistency Review, which concludes today, to offer additional feedback on the proposed plan amendment.

With the passing of the Military Lands Withdrawal Act in 1999, Congress reauthorized the withdrawal of public lands on McGregor Range for military use and required BLM to develop a new land use plan for the area. The Las Cruces District Office continues to manage wildlife habitat, recreation, cattle grazing, and other public land uses on the withdrawn lands.

The BLM started scoping in 2001. Today's release culminates four years of public involvement to result in a plan for how BLM will manage withdrawn public lands on McGregor Range. Because of the shared management responsibilities on McGregor Range, Fort Bliss has been a cooperating agency for the development of the RMPA/EIS. The proposed plan offers no change to public use of McGregor Range for recreation or grazing.

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